

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/762,063

Examiner

Albert J. Gagliardi

Applicant(s)

RATHOD ET AL.

Art Unit

2878

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to submissions of 20 September 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-14.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 21 January 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date 4/04
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

EXAMINER'S COMMENT AND STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Election/Restrictions

1. This application is in condition for allowance except for the presence of claims 15-38 drawn to an invention non-elected without traverse. Accordingly, claims 15-38 have been cancelled.

Examiner's Amendment

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Michael Turgeon on 22 November 2004.

3. The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 9 has been amended by changing the dependency from "claim 9" to --claim 1--.

Information Disclosure Statement

4. The examiner has considered information considered by the Office in parent application 101/097,707 when examining this continuing application, and the application file reflects that fact. A list of the information need not be submitted in the continuing application unless the applicant desires the information to be printed on the patent. See MPEP § 609.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 1-14 are allowed.

6. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

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Regarding independent claim 1, the prior art does not disclose or fairly suggest a method of accelerated weather testing of specimens in an apparatus having at least: an enclosure including a door; a specimen mounting apparatus; a light source including a ballast; a controller connected to ballast; a test module for detecting irradiance in the test chamber, the module connected to the ballast; a calibration module for detecting irradiance in the test chamber; and further wherein the test module is removably disposed in a pocket defined in the door and the calibration module interchangeably replaces the test module in the pocket to detect irradiance in the test chamber.

The examiner note that while accelerated testing apparatus utilizing light sources and ballasts including ballast control means and calibration mean are known in the art (see for example Fedor *et al.* – US 5,206,518; Grossman *et al.* – US 6,285,137; Neigoff *et al.* – US 5,220,840; and Klippert – US 4,012,954), the prior art does not fairly suggest the unique arrangement as recited according to the present arrangement. The examiner notes that the particular arrangement including the pocket in door and the interchangeable calibration/test module allows for a level of convenience and ease of operation not suggested by the prior art.

7. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

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9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Albert J. Gagliardi whose telephone number is (571) 272-2436.

The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday from 9 AM to 5 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David P. Porta can be reached on (571) 272-2444. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

10. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Albert J. Gagliardi
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2878

AJG